

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

This letter is most effective when:

- 1) It is sent to your own Assemblymember and State Senator
- 2) To the local office of your representative
- 3) If you followup with a phone call about ten days after sending the letter

A brief handwritten personal note (if you know your representative personally) means more than a letter.

Use your own words but always include the subject in a line at the top by itself

You may want to invite the Legislator (or a representative) to meet with your group.

Dear [Legislator]:

Re: Equitable New York State funding for City of Rochester Operations

Recently I attended Rochester Mayor Bill Johnson's "State Of The City" address.

What I learned is the state resources that support our Police, Fire and Public Works services, as well as other city programs have not increased in years. We face the possibility of services reductions in our neighborhoods that are, frankly, unacceptable.

For many years Rochester and Monroe County were able to contribute to the pool of state revenues while asking for only a relatively small portion of those resources in return. Mayor Johnson reviewed with us the distribution of New York State aid to municipalities and it is clear to me that an adjustment is in order. There no longer exists a justification for per capita aid to the City of Rochester to be unrealistically below the aid provided to Buffalo and Syracuse.

I know that securing state funding is difficult and that every year you must make the case in Albany for our community. This year, however, we need something more – we need to close the gap between Rochester and those cities just ninety minutes away. I know you will continue to do your best for our community and am willing to contact whomever you suggest to make sure this message is heard.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and will give your office a call to open up communication between us on this issue.

Sincerely,

This letter can easily be modified into a group letter or small-scale petition from your core group or board. Group letters like this, signed by community leaders, get immediate attention.

GOVERNOR

George E. Pataki (R-C)

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